

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03089 031441Z

46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

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O R 031407Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8799

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI, MX

SUBJECT: RABASA VISIT TO CHILE

REF: SANTIAGO 3082

1. SUMMARY. RABASA LEAVES FOR MEXICO WITH 71 ASYLEES AND CONDITIONAL PLEDGE THAT EX-FONMIN ALMEYDA MAY FOLLOW. MAY BE SIGNIFICANT BREAK IN CHILEAN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED IN PRESS, MEXICAN FONMIN EMILIO RABASA OBTAINED LARGE MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN HIS SUDDEN VISIT TO CHILE. LEFT SANTIAGO JUNE 2 IN SPECIAL MEXICAN PLANE WHICH ALSO CARRIED 71 ASYLEES PREVIOUSLY LODGED IN MEXICAN EMBASSY, RELEASED BY GOC.

3. ON CONCLUSION HIS DISCUSSIONS JUNE 1 RABASA HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID:

A. HE HAD COME TO SANTIAGO ON MISSION ENTRUSTED
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 03089 031441Z

HIM BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, TO REQUEST PRESIDENT

PINOCHET TO ISSUE SAFE-CONDUCTS PROMPTLY FOR ALL 71 ASYLEES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF ASYLUM CONVENTIONS AND TO AVOID "AREAS OF FRICTION" BETWEEN MEXICO AND CHILE. PINOCHET SO ORDERED.

B. HE ALSO REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR DETAINED EX-U.P. FONMIN CLODOMIRO ALMEYDA TO LEAVE COUNTRY TO LIVE IN MEXICO. PINOCHET REPLIED HE COULD NOT COMPLY SINCE ALMEYDA WAS TO BE TRIED, BUT AGREED TO RABASA'S REQUEST THAT ALMEYDA MIGHT GO IF ACQUITTED. RABSA REMARKED HE WAS SURE ALMEYDA WOULD RECEIVE A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE TRIAL.

C. HE HAD TALKED FOR AN HOUR WITH ALMEYDA, FOUND HIM IN EXCELLENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION, AND EXPRESSED HOPE HE WOULD BE ACQUITTED.

D. MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE TO GRANT ASYLUM TO CHILEANS IF THOSE WHO SOUGHT IT WERE QUALIFIED UNDER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

4. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL SOON EXCHANGE AMBASSADOR; MEXICO WILL RESUME THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO CHILEANS; A CHILEAN TECHNICAL COMMISSION WILL VISIT MEXICO TO ARRANGE FOR SHIPMENT TO CHILE OF SULPHUR, SUPERPHOSPHATES AND UREA.

5. COINCIDENTALLY, CHILEAN PRESS CARRIED REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH ONE OF EX-PRESIDENT ALLENDE'S PHYSICIANS (ARTURO JIRON) IN EL HERALDO OF MEXICO CITY, IN WHICH LATTER CATEGORICALLY ASSERTS, WITH EVIDENCE, THAT ALLENDE DIED BY SUICIDE.

6. COMMENT: RABSA'S BOLD DIPLOMACY APPEARS TO HAVE TIPPED BALANCE TOWARD VIEWS OF MODERATES IN GOVT AND FONOFF PROFESSIONALS WHO HAVE BEEN URGING THAT ASYLUM PROBLEM BE LIQUIDATED BY PERMITTING QUICK DEPARTURE OF ALL ASYLEES. MODERATES ALSO STAND TO GAIN FROM PROJECTION INTO PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBILITY OF EXPELLING FROM COUNTRY EX-ALLENDE GOVT HIERARCHS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 03089 031441Z

SOON TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. JUNTA OBVIOUSLY WEIGHED PROS AND CONS OF ACCEDING TO RABSA'S PROPOSALS AND DECIDED IT SHOULD ACT TO MEND ITS POLITICAL FENCES IN LATIN AMERICA. IF BOTH MEXICO AND CHILE CARRY THROUGH IN DIRECTIONS NOW INDICATED, SOME PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN MODERATING HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISMS WHICH STING CHILEANS AND WHICH THREATEN TO ISOLATE CHILE IN INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES.

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